

are likely to face a bleak plight given the pathetic levels of investments in the Research and Development while their international counterparts are merging together in order to grow in size with the prime objective of saving on the research and development costs and increasing their range of products;

(b) if so, the reasons for the Indian Pharmaceutical companies lacking the required infrastructural facilities; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to direct these companies to seriously take up the original research particularly when these are likely to undergo a major setback in 2010 A.D. when the Government will enforce the Patent Act on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c). The mega mergers taking place in pharmaceutical companies abroad, the resources available to such companies and their emphasis on research and development will pose challenges to pharmaceutical companies in India.

In the face of these challenges, Indian pharmaceutical companies would have to shift from process development to more original research and development. While this will have to emanate primarily from the companies themselves, incentives for R and D, provision of state-of-art, infrastructural facilities from CSIR laboratories and training of R and D oriented scientists at the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research are some of the steps taken by the Government to prepare the pharmaceutical industry for the challenges ahead.

[Translation]

IDPL

3709. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited was revived during April, 1992 by BIFR after studying the report of the IDBI;

(b) whether Government are aware that all the five major plants of IDPL are on a complete standstill;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the arrears of salaries of the employees are yet payable from 1988;

(e) if so, the total amount thereof and time bound programme to pay the arrears, if any;

(f) whether the wages for October, 1996 are yet to be paid;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the time bound programme to pay the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c). A revival package formulated by IDPL management was approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) on 10.2.1994 in terms of Section 17 (2) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Consequent upon the failure of IDPL to reach the targetted levels of production and sales in 1994-95, the BIFR reviewed the position and appointed IDBI, Bombay as the Operating Agency (O.A.) for techno-economic viability study and for suggesting long-term rehabilitation measures for IDPL. The report of the Operating Agency is awaited. IDPL has been facing severe constraints of Working Capital and other finances. As a result, the operations in its plants have come to a close except in the Madras unit which is running on a nominal basis.

(d) and (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) to (h). IDPL has since paid the wages and salaries for the month of October, 1996 to its workers and employees.

[English]

Smuggling of Cattle

3710. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether cattle smuggling is still continuing from Bihar to Bangladesh due to infrastructural bottlenecks and administrative indifferences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cattle smuggling to Bangladesh was shown on BBC;

(d) whether high level meeting with Indo-Nepal officials held in June, '95 achieved its target of stopping smuggling of the cattle;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the effective steps taken to check the illegal activities on borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Bihar has no border with Bangladesh. However, as per available reports, the cattle are brought to West Bengal from Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for smuggling across the border.

(c) As per available information, there appears to be no reference to cattle smuggling to Bangladesh on BBC.

(d) and (e). As per available information, a meeting was held on 31st May, 1996 under the Chairmanship of Inspector General of Forests to discuss trans-border issues affecting India and Nepal.

(f) A series of measures have been taken to check the illegal activities on borders. These include :

(I) Strengthening of the Border Security Force:

- (i) raising of additional battalions under the expansion plan of the Border Security Force;
- (ii) reducing gaps between the Border outposts;
- (iii) increase in the number of outpost towers;
- (iv) provision of surveillance equipments and night vision devices; and
- (v) raising of riverine water wing of the Border Security Force.

(II) Fencing, Flood Lighting and Patrolling :

- (i) construction of border roads and fence on the Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders;
- (ii) flood lighting in the sensitive stretches on the Indo-Pak border; and
- (iii) intensification of patrolling along the border.

(III) Surveillance on the Coastal Area :

- (i) intensive surveillance by Naval vessels on the high seas;
- (ii) joint Coast Guard and Navy surveillance in the territorial waters; and
- (iii) patrolling by joint detachments of Navy (Coast Guard), Customs and State Police through trawlers in the shallow waters along the shore.

(IV) Intelligence Gathering sharing and Coordination:

Intelligence gathering is being constantly monitored to ensure that more and more pin pointed and actionable intelligence is available. Mechanisms have been set up to share such information, promptly with the State Governments.

Stock of Sugar

3711. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sugar mills, including Cooperative Sugar mills in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have been burdened with huge stocks of sugar while crushing for the current season has already started;

(b) if so, the total amount of sugar stocks with the mills and Government stores at the beginning of the current crushing season; and

(c) the steps taken to clear the stocks and to make the required credit to the cooperative and other mills for the clearance of the dues to cane growers and other allied purposes?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) and (b). Due to higher level of sugar production during 1994-95 and 1995-96 sugar season (October-September) the sugar stocks with the factories had been at higher level at the beginning of the current crushing season. The stocks of sugar with the factories at the beginning of current season as on 1.10.1996 in Maharashtra and U.P. were 28.02 lakh tonnes and 20.79 lakh tonnes (Provisional) respectively.

(c) In order to clear the stock and to improve the liquidity of sugar mills, the Government have taken various measures like, higher release of freesale sugar, creation of bufferstock, permission for exports and relaxation to the sugar mills to avail higher credit limits from the banks.

Encroachment of a Border Village

3712 SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the village Molcham in Manipur is facing threat of being included within the border of Burma

(b) whether the Army from Burma often enters the village and harasses the villagers;

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure that the Molcham area is not encroached upon by Burma;

(d) whether Narcotics are being smuggled into India through Molcham area; and

(e) the action taken to stop the smuggling thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) As per available information no such threat has been reported.

(b) and (c). The Government of Manipur has informed that no such incident has been reported during last three years. One Police Station has been established by the Government of Manipur in Molcham village. A Border out post of Border Security Force is also located near this village.

(d) and (e). Since the smuggling of narcotics is a clandestine activity, there is no specific report suggesting that smuggling of narcotics from Myanmar takes place through Molcham village. The enforcement agencies have been instructed to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. High level coordination meetings are held periodically to review